



Indiana State
Department of Health

Immunization E-Letter

Issue #280

June 6, 2008

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) Recommendations on Prevention of Herpes Zoster Released

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The newly published ACIP Recommendations provide information on herpes zoster and on the use of the live attenuated vaccine for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles). To access the full text visit the MMWR link on the CDC website:

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/mmwrpubs.htm

ACIP recommends all persons aged 60 and older with no contraindications be routinely vaccinated with one (1) dose of zoster vaccine. Persons who report a previous episode of zoster and persons with chronic medical conditions can be vaccinated unless those conditions are contraindications or precautions to vaccination.

Changes in Disease Investigation

Effective Monday, June 16, 2008 primary investigation of suspected vaccine preventable diseases will transition to the District Field Epidemiologists of the Epidemiology Resource Center at the Indiana State Department of Health. Kristin Ryker, MPH, has replaced Karee Buffin as the Vaccine Preventable Disease Epidemiologist and she can be reached at (317) 233-7112.

The public health investigators/AFIX staff of the Immunization Program will continue to assess VFC provider offices, provide feedback on ways to improve performance, encourage improved performance, and share best practice concepts among providers.

Message from McKesson

McKesson Specialty Distribution has been alerted to some instances in which providers have found vaccine packages left out on their doorstep. When providers have a FedEx signature release on file, it allows FedEx to drop off any FedEx packages without a signature. CDC and McKesson cannot override the signature release on file for McKesson shipments. You may want to consider cancelling your signature release on file; however, such a cancellation will apply to all packages (vaccine and otherwise).

Influenza Vaccine Expires June 30, 2008

All 2007-2008 Influenza vaccine supply will expire on June 30, 2008. Remaining doses should not be administered after this date. Influenza vaccine is only good for a single influenza season. Any expired VFC influenza vaccine should be returned to McKesson. Contact the Immunization Program at the Indiana State Department of Health for further directions at 1-800-701-0704.

Immunization Program
2 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (800) 701-0704
E-mail: immunize@isdh.in.gov

Upcoming Immunizations from A to Z Trainings

The Immunization Program will be offering trainings on a limited basis. The following trainings are available in Central and Southern Indiana in the following locations. For questions or to register, contact the respective health educator either by phone or e-mail.

A to Z Training

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

1:00 pm—5:00 pm

St. Clare Neighborhood Clinic

407 E. Market Street

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Contact: Jill King, Educator

Phone: 317-501-7461

E-Mail: jiking@isdh.in.gov

A to Z Training

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Madison Co. Health Dept.

206 E. 9th Street

Anderson, IN 46016

Contact: Jill King, Educator

Phone: 317-501-7461

E-Mail: jiking@isdh.in.gov

A to Z Training

Friday, July 25, 2008

8:30 am—12:00 pm

Vanderburgh Co. Health Dept.

2nd Floor Classroom

420 Mulberry Street

Evansville, IN 47713-1231

Contact: Sharon Griffin, Educator

Phone: 317-670-8826

E-Mail: sgriffin@isdh.in.gov

Immunization from A to Z Trainings are available upon request. Please contact your educator:

Northern Region: Jodi Morgan

Phone: 317-650-5051

E-Mail: jmorgan@isdh.in.gov

Central Region: Jill King

Phone: 317-501-7461

E-Mail: jiking@isdh.in.gov

Southern Region: Sharon Griffin

Phone: 317-670-8826

E-Mail: sgriffin@isdh.in.gov

Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit from CDC

For all VFC providers it is important that you are aware that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit. The toolkit can be accessed on the CDC website at the following address: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit/>

The Immunization Program will be offering excerpts from the toolkit in our Vaccine E-Letters to assist you in the use and storage of vaccines. The following is from the Introduction of the Toolkit:

Vaccination efforts have been successful in preventing and eradicating vaccine-preventable diseases in part because of proper vaccine storage and handling practices. Failure to adhere to recommended specifications for storage and handling can reduce vaccine potency, resulting in inadequate immune responses in the recipients and inadequate protection against disease. Vaccine quality is the shared responsibility of all parties, from the time the vaccine is manufactured until it is administered.

Storage and handling errors result in the loss of millions of dollars worth of vaccine each year in the United States. Vaccine failures caused by administration or reduced potency vaccine can affect a large number of patients, causing embarrassment, expense, and potential liability. Patient confidence in vaccines and in vaccine providers is diminished when repeat vaccinations are required to replace invalid doses administered with reduced-potency vaccines.

Vaccine storage and handling recommendations included in the product package inserts should be followed carefully and will provide you with the most up-to-date information. If you have concerns about vaccine that may not have been stored or handled properly, follow your state health department immunization program policy and contact either the manufacturer's quality control office or the immunization program for guidance.

You can contact the Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Program at 1-800-701-0704. There is a list of Manufacturer Quality Control Office Telephone Numbers in the Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Manual (Pink Book) Appendix C: Vaccine Storage and Handling or you may access the list at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/C/manufact-qc.pdf>

This toolkit does not replace the Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Vaccines for Children Program policies, but rather is meant to be a supplement to them.

Upcoming CDC Current Issues in Immunization NetConference (CIINC)

Are you seeking new approaches for addressing parental concerns about vaccine safety?

Please join us for the June 12 offering of the Current Issues in Immunization NetConference. This one-hour program is accessible from home or office by way of a phone connection and internet access.

The program looks at why it takes more than science to address parental concerns and offers new ideas about how to effectively answer parent questions about vaccine safety.

This is a limited registration event. Registration will close on June 10th. For information about how to reserve a slot, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/>

If registration becomes full, be aware that you can access a replay of the program starting from about June 16.

Introduction to CHIRP

Introduction to CHIRP

Designed for new CHIRP users or as a refresher for current CHIRP users.

June 20, 2008

9:30 am–12:00 pm EST

Using CHIRP

Reminder/Recall Feature

Learn how to use the Reminder/Recall feature to reduce missed opportunities and keep your patients on schedule.

June 20, 2008

1:30 pm–3:00 pm EST

Huntingburg Public Library

419 N Jackson Street

Huntingburg, IN

Seating is limited. Registration required

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to

CHIRP.IN.GOV to register

CHIRP Tip

If you register your e-mail address with CHIRP, you can reset your own password without contacting the helpdesk. You will need to know your user name to register your e-mail with your CHIRP account.

To register your e-mail with CHIRP, call (888) 227-4439

CHIRP Informational Sessions

CHIRP Informational Sessions are designed for NON-CHIRP users interested in learning more about the benefits of using CHIRP in their facility or practice.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to CHIRP.IN.GOV to register.

June 17, 2008

1:00 pm–3:00 pm

Lake County

St. Anthony Medical Center

Marian Education Center

1201 South Main Street

Crown Point, IN 46307

CHIRP User Group Meeting

This session is designed for CURRENT CHIRP users who are interested in learning about upcoming changes or who have specific questions regarding CHIRP usage.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to the CHIRP.IN.GOV to register.

June 17, 2008

9:30 am–11:30 am

Lake County

St. Anthony Medical Center

Marian Education Center

1201 South Main Street

Crown Point, IN 46307

State Funded Vaccine Webinars

The following sessions have been planned to further explain State Funded Vaccine to providers who are interested in learning more. These sessions will be online and require an Internet connection and speakers. You may register by sending an e-mail to avounce@isdh.in.gov noting which session you will be attending and to what e-mail address to send the invitation. Sessions are limited to the first 20 individuals.

A–Tuesday, June 24, 2008–7:00 am

B–Wednesday, June 25, 2008–Noon

C–Tuesday, July 22, 2008–7:00 am

D–Wednesday, July 23, 2008–8:30 am

E–Thursday, August 21, 2008–7:30 am

F–Friday, August 22, 2008–Noon

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has launched a new website:

<http://www.statehealth.in.gov>

Please visit us on the Immunization Home link to access program information.